GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:150
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2016
Indo-Israel Relations
Khadse Smt. Raksha Nikhil

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is strengthening the relations with Israel on various counts and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether co-operation is being sought in the field of information technology, biotechnology, energy, defence and agriculture and if so, the details of agreements entered into these areas;

(c) the details of people to people interaction through educational exchanges and tourism materialized or proposed in near future; and

(d) the future plan of action to broaden and deepen the relationship?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 150 REGARDING "INDO-ISRAEL RELATIONS" FOR ANSWER ON 04.05.2016

The Gulf and West Asia & North Africa (WANA) region forms part of India's extended neighbourhood and is important for security and strategic reasons. The Government of India is committed to strengthen relations with all the countries of this region including Israel.

Israel is a functional democracy and its economy is forward looking, modern in orientation and gels well with our own flagship programmes announced in the recent past including that of Make in India, Digital India, Start up India, Clean Ganga, and Smart City as well as the most recently launched National Agriculture Market initiative.

There are considerable synergies between the two countries to realize existing potential. The Israeli leadership have expressed their willingness to partner in our flagship initiatives and many Israeli companies have come forward to explore prospects of collaboration with their Indian counterparts.

The presence of 80,000 People of Indian Origin/diaspora is a significant aspect in our bilateral engagement with Israel. Israel has many contemporary and internationally recognised universities and many Indian institutions/universities have entered into cooperation arrangements with them. There is a robust students exchange between the two countries.

Next year we mark the 25th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel. As is customary, these events are to be celebrated by reaffirming desire to broaden relations with Israel including exchange of high level visits.